

6 retrieving means for dividing each of schedules registered for a plurality of people or a
7 plurality of equipments into a plurality of groups and retrieving common idle time among said
8 plurality of groups while taking significance degrees of respective groups into account.

1 14. A recording capable of being read by a computer, storing a program for
2 retrieving idle time of a schedule, comprising:

3 accepting a first conference-holding condition of said schedule:

4 dividing a subject of said schedule into a plurality of groups;

5 comparing one group in said plurality of groups obtained by division with said first
6 conference-holding condition to make a coincident result be a second conference-holding
7 condition;

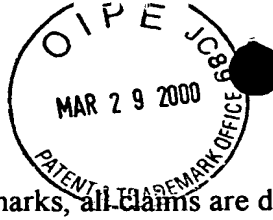
8 comparing one of said plurality of groups, which is not yet compared with any
9 previous conference-holding conditions, with said second conference-holding condition; and

10 outputting a retrieval result obtained by comparison.--

REMARKS

Due to an error on the part of the undersigned, the claims of the previously filed Preliminary Amendment and Supplemental Preliminary Amendment were numbered incorrectly. This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to correct this error.

Claims 6-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer while claims 6-11 have been newly added in accordance with current Office policy, to further and alternatively define Applicants' disclosed invention and to assist the Examiner to expedite compact prosecution of the instant application. Favorable consideration of these claims and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

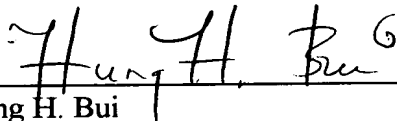


In view of the foregoing additions and remarks, all claims are deemed in condition for examination. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at (703) 312-6600.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. No fee is included for this Preliminary Amendment since all claims were paid for previously. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.35669X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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